

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

 comprising:

1. A memory card for storing data written thereto from an external device,
a substantially rectangular card body having first and second substantially rectangular surfaces and edges between said surfaces;
terminals provided in the vicinity of one of the edges between said surfaces and on one of said substantially rectangular surfaces for inputting data from or outputting data to said external device;

a storage device disposed in said card body for storing said data inputted from said terminals;

a switch located on one of said surfaces and operable to a state to prevent the data stored in said storage device from being erased; and

a control circuit electrically connected between said terminals and said storage device for writing data from an external device to said storage device, for reading out stored data to said terminals from said storage device and for supplying to said terminals a status signal representing the state of said switch.

2. The memory card of claim 1 wherein said switch has a slide member located in a recess disposed on said one surface.

3. The memory card of claim 2 wherein said switch is reciprocally movable in a side-to-side manner toward one and away from the other of longitudinal ones of said edges, the state of said switch being determined by the position thereof.

9. The memory card of claim 1 wherein said control circuit receives signals from and transmits signals to said external device in serial form.

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comprising:

10. A memory card for storing data written thereto from an external device,

a substantially rectangular card body having first and second substantially rectangular surfaces and edges between said surfaces;

terminals provided in the vicinity of one of the edges between said surfaces and on one of said substantially rectangular surfaces for inputting data from or outputting data to said external device;

a storage device disposed in said card body for storing said data inputted from said terminals;

a switch located on one of the edges between said surfaces and operable to a state to prevent the data stored in said storage device from being erased; and

a control circuit electrically connected between said terminals and said storage device for writing data from an external device to said storage device, for reading out stored data to said terminals from said storage device and for supplying to said terminals a status signal representing the state of said switch.

11. The memory card of claim 10 wherein said switch has a slide member located in a recess disposed on said one edge.

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12. The memory card of claim 10 wherein said control circuit is responsive to a read status instruction signal from said external device to supply said status signal to said terminals.

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13. The memory card of claim 12 wherein said control circuit is responsive to a write instruction signal from said external device to write data to said storage device; and wherein said read status instruction signal precedes said write instruction signal.

14. The memory card of claim 12 wherein said control circuit is responsive to an erase instruction signal from said external device to erase data stored in said storage device; and wherein said read status instruction signal precedes said erase instruction signal.

15. The memory card of claim 12 wherein said data written to said storage device comprise a data file; and wherein said read status instruction signal is supplied prior to writing a data file to or erasing a data file from said storage device.

16. The memory card of claim 10 wherein said switch is operable while said memory card is used with said external device.

17. The memory card of claim 10 wherein said control circuit receives data from and transmits data to said external device in serial form.

18. Apparatus used with a substantially rectangularly shaped memory card having first and second substantially rectangular surfaces and being of the type containing a storage device for storing information and a switch located on one of said surfaces and operable to a state to prevent the information stored in said storage device from being erased, said apparatus being operable to write information to said memory card and comprising:

terminals for transmitting signals to and reading signals from said memory card;

and

a control circuit electrically connected to said terminals for writing information to said memory card and for receiving from said terminals a status signal representing the state of said switch on said memory card.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said switch has a slide member located in a recess disposed on said one surface.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said switch is reciprocally movable in a side-to-side manner toward one and away from the other of longitudinal ones of said edges, the state of said switch being determined by the position thereof.

21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said control circuit is operable to transmit to said memory card via said terminals a read status instruction signal to cause said read status instruction signal to be received by said memory card.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said control circuit is operable to transmit to said memory card a write instruction signal to cause information to be written to said storage device; and wherein the transmission of said read status instruction signal precedes the transmission of said write instruction signal.

23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said control circuit is operable to transmit to said memory card an erase instruction signal to cause information stored in said storage device to be erased; and wherein the transmission of said read status instruction signal precedes the transmission of said erase instruction signal.

24. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said information written to said storage device and said information stored in said storage device comprise a data file; and wherein said control circuit transmits said read status instruction signal each time a data file is written to or erased from said storage device.

25. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said switch is operable while said memory card is operably used with said apparatus.

26. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said control circuit writes information to and receives information from said memory card in serial form.

27. Apparatus used with a substantially rectangularly shaped memory card having first and second substantially rectangular surfaces and edges between said surfaces, and being of the type containing a storage device for storing information and a switch located on one of the edges between said surfaces and operable to a state to prevent the information stored in said storage device from being erased, said apparatus being operable to write information to said memory card and comprising:

terminals for transmitting signals to and reading signals from said memory card;
and
a control circuit electrically connected to said terminals for writing information to said memory card and for receiving from said terminals a status signal representing the state of said switch on said memory card.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said switch has a slide member located in a recess disposed on said one edge.

29. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said control circuit is operable to transmit to said memory card via said terminals a read status instruction signal to cause said read status instruction signal to be received by said memory card.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said control circuit is operable to transmit to said memory card a write instruction signal to cause information to be written to said storage device; and wherein the transmission of said read status instruction signal precedes the transmission of said write instruction signal.

31. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said control circuit is operable to transmit to said memory card an erase instruction signal to cause information stored in said storage device to be erased; and wherein the transmission of said read status instruction signal precedes the transmission of said erase instruction signal.

33. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said switch is operable while said s operably used with said apparatus.

35. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said apparatus is a voice recorder.

36. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said apparatus is a voice recorder.

37. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said apparatus is a data terminal connectable to a data distribution network for receiving therefrom electronic music data.

38. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said apparatus is a data terminal connectable to a data distribution network for receiving therefrom electronic music data.

39. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said apparatus is a portable scanner.

40. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said apparatus is a portable scanner.

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